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To: **Commissioner**  
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TOTAL NUMBER OF PAGES (INCLUDING THIS COVER SHEET): 13

**MESSAGE:**

U.S. Application No.: 09/651,344  
 Filed: August 29, 2000  
 Title: ARTICULATING SUTURING DEVICE AND METHOD  
 Case No.: 6771USD1

Enclosed herewith for the patent application identified above is the following:

1. Transmittal letter
2. Amendment (4 pages)

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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: D. B. Modesitt, et al.

Serial No.: 09/651,344

Filed: August 29, 2000

For: ARTICULATING SUTURING  
DEVICE AND METHOD

Attorney Docket No.: 6771.US.D1

Art Unit: 3731

Examiner: J. Woo

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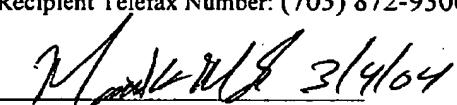
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Group Art Unit 3731

P.O. Box 1450

Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on: March 4, 2004

Recipient Telefax Number: (703) 872-9306

  
Matthew H. Mader Date

Commissioner For Patents  
P.O. BOX 1450  
Alexandria VA, 22314

After Final Amendment

Dear Sir:

In response to the Office Action of November 7, 2003, please amend the above-  
identified application as follows, and consider the remarks below. Reconsideration of  
this application is respectfully requested.

**Amendments to the Claims** – are reflected in the listing of the claims which  
begins on page 2.

**Remarks** begin on page 8